

## REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-18 are now present in this application. Claim 1 is independent. Claim 1 had been amended

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

### Examiner's Interviews

In response to the Amendment filed on December 3, 2002, the Examiner issued an Advisory Action dated December 26, 2002. Applicants filed an RCE and a Supplement Amendment on January 3, 2003.

Beginning on January 7, 2003, Applicant's representative conducted a series of interviews with the Examiner directed to addressing the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 over the prior art. In a final telephonic interview, conducted on January 23, 2003, the Examiner agreed that claim 1, amended as set forth above, overcomes the prior art of record, including several new references under consideration by the Examiner.

In particular, claims 1-5, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the Prior Art in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,808,708 to Oyama et al. (Oyama).

Based on the discussions set forth hereinabove, Applicants submit that the Prior Art, in view of Oyama, fails to disclose or suggest the features of independent claim 1, as amended.

Claims 2-5 and 7 depend on claim 1. Since, the prior art in view of Oyama fails to disclose or suggest the features of independent claim 1, as amended, claims 2-5 and 7 are patentable at least based on their dependence on claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this art grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 11, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Prior Art, in view of Oyama, as applied to claim 2, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,808,713 to Broer et al.

Oyama and the Prior Art, argued above with respect to independent claim 1, fails to disclose or suggest the above-recited features of independent claim 1. Broer, directed to a reflective polarizer, cannot fill this vacancy.

Claims 8, 11, 13, 14 (and claim 2) depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1. Since neither the Prior Art, nor Oyama, nor Broer, discloses or suggests the above-recited features of independent claim 1, the Prior Art, in view of Oyama, as applied to claim 2, and further in view of Broer, cannot render claims 8, 11, 13, and 14 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this art grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 6, 9, 10, 12 and 17 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

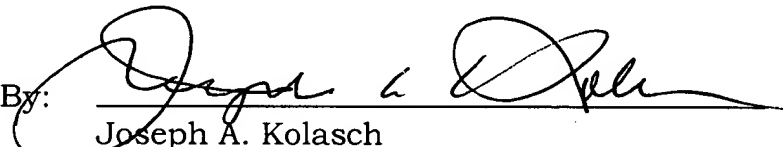
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Percy L. Square, Registration No. 51,084, at (703) 205-8034, in the Washington, D.C. area.


Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By:   
Joseph A. Kolasch  
Reg. No.: 22,463

  
JAK/PLS:asc

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
Telephone: (703) 205-8000

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Three Times Amended) A back light unit in a liquid crystal display, comprising:

a light guide; and

a light input ~~device~~ for directing a light path of a light beam substantially to [the] a rear side [thereof and] of said light input device in a direction away from the light guide prior to directing said light path to a front side thereof and toward the light guide to obtain high focusing of the light beam, wherein [all portions of the light guide are installed at a height different from a height of the light input and] the path of said light beam is directed through a substantially non-solid medium, prior to being directed toward said light guide.